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KELLY, KELLEY, KILLEY, O'KILLIA

Descendants of David O'Killia

who took the oath of fidelity

as an inhabitant of

Yarmouth, Barnstable County, Plymouth Colony

(Massachusetts Bay Province after 1692)

1657

By ^o
Alice L. Priest
16 Brewster ~~Terrace~~
Brookline, Massachusetts
February 10, 1937

Descendants of David O'Killia of Yarmouth, Barnstable County, Massachusetts, by 1657. In his will of 1696 he spelled his name, "David O'Killia"..

See the following:

"One Hundred and Sixty Allied Families," by John Osborne Austin, published 1893. History of Miami County, Ohio, published 1880 by the Beers Co. of Chicago.

"Ancestry and Posterity of Richard Williams of Taunton, Massachusetts," by Charles C. Williams, M. D., Los Angeles, California; a typed record bound in two volumes in 1924.

Private records of Edgar Lincoln Kelly, of Three Oaks, Michigan; formerly of Miami County, Ohio; and Mount Herman School, Gill, Massachusetts.

2025051

The 1893 Austin book gives the family on pages 156 - 159, inclusive; which includes the names and birth dates of the sixth generation of children in the line of: David¹ and Jane; Jeremiah² and Sarah; Seth³ and Mehitable (Wing); Seth⁴ and Molly (Daniels); Seth⁵ and Sarah (Williams); and the five children of the last named: Moses⁶, Samuel⁷ (b. 1792 Jan. 8, Mendon, Mass.), Seth⁸, Eli⁹, Molly¹⁰.

This present record is concerned exclusively with some of the descendants of the above Samuel⁷ (born 1792 Jan. 8) and of his brother Seth⁸ (born 1794 Oct. 5) who by about 1820 had moved to Miami County, Ohio, in the region of West Milton.

Mr. J. O. Austin, compiler of the above 1893 book, was a descendant of an aunt of this Samuel⁷ and Seth⁸. And this book includes some record of some fifteen other families connected by marriage, and therefore ancestry, with this "Kelley" family in the line of his ancestress and of the above Samuel⁷ and Seth⁸.

In Mr. Austin's record of the Daniels family, two dates can be added on page 80 as follows: David Daniels and Huldah Taft married January 25, 1737, Upton, Mass.; and Huldah made her will, Dec. 9, 1794, reading in part: "I Huldah Daniels (relict widow of David Daniels deceased) of Mendon, .. Gentlewoman"; "executor .. my Son in Law Seth Killey." Will was filed for probating, Worcester County, Mass., July 2, 1799; and the son-in-law who was to have been executor had died April 29, 1799; so Huldah's oldest son, Darius Daniels, served as executor. Probably Huldah died June 1799.

Mr. Austin's book does not include the ancestry of Sarah (Williams) Killey, wife of Seth⁵ Killey, and mother of the above Samuel⁷ and Seth⁸ Killey (later Kelley, and later still with some descendants, Kelly) who moved to Miami County, Ohio.

The 1880 History of Miami County, Ohio, in its Biographies, gives on page 696 the biography of John Kelley, and on page 832 that of Allen Kelley, both sons of the above Samuel⁷ Killey, or Kelley, born in Mendon, Mass., Jan. 8, 1792; and on page 695 that of Eli Kelloy, son of Seth⁸ Kelley, or Kelley, the brother, as it states, of Samuel⁷. Neither of these three biographies gives the date of birth of the brothers Samuel⁷ and Seth⁸, and one includes the statement that Samuel⁷ was "about" so many years old when he died, giving an age that would have made him four years younger than he really was. But another grandson of Samuel⁷ - Edgar Lincoln⁸ Kelly - had the correct date of birth, given also on the printed vital records of Mendon, Massachusetts: January 8, 1792. But the Miami County biography did include the statement that Samuel⁷ came from "South Mendon, Massachusetts," and that his father was also a Massachusetts man.

Further confirming this connection, is the will of Seth⁸ Killey of Blackstone, Massachusetts; made Feb. 25, 1843, and filed for probate Feb. 4, 1851; he having died Dec. 27, 1850. Blackstone was that south part of Mendon which was set off as a new town about 1845. At the time of his will, Seth⁸ Killey had one manufacturing partnership in Blackstone with his oldest son, Moses⁹; and a similar separate one with his youngest son, Eli¹⁰ - and the business debts of those partnerships proved unfortunate to his estate, as he possibly realized they might. He gave a bequest

Recd Jan 5-1979

to his wife Eunice (2nd wife, married 1817); and (3) "I give and Bequeath to my Son Samuel Killey now liveing in the State of Ohio five Dollars in addition to what I have already given him before to him, his heirs and assigns forever."

(4) ... to my Son Seth Killey Jr. now liveing in the State of Ohio five Dollars (as for Samuel) .. (5) ... to my two Sons Moses Kelly and Eli Kelly ... the residue .. The one daughter had probably died young since she was not mentioned in her father's will and the only known record of her is that of her birth.

The three biographical Allen, John, and Eli Kelley records in the Miami County Ohio, History give the following additional genealogical data:

Samuel^o Kelley married in Ohio, Mahala Yount, born about 1802, on the Ohio River as the family was moving to Ohio. She was the daughter of Frederick Yount, by his wife - Mast, daughter of John Mast who built the first mill, about 1803, near West Milton, Miami County. John Mast was born about 1753, and died in 1832, in or near West Milton: his wife having died there in 1813. His son-in-law, Frederick Yount, was associated with him in the milling business, and there is an account in the Miami County History of how Frederick Yount selected the site for the mill after careful search for the best location, and then chanced to see two initials cut in a tree. Those initials made Yount fear that someone else had also recently selected the same site, and Yount therefore made the quickest possible trip back to Cincinnati to be the first to get the title to the land; as he succeeded in doing. The probabilities are exceedingly strong that Frederick Yount was a relative of that Rebecca Yount who married Jesse Hoover; the great grandparents of President Herbert Hoover. Possibly Frederick was Rebecca's older brother. And probably they came from the same North Carolina region to Miami County, Ohio, about the same time.

These ~~1817~~ children of Samuel^o and Mahala (Yount) Kelley, all born in Miami County, were: Allen,⁷ John,⁷ Leonidas,⁷ Mary,⁷ Daniel,⁷ Seth,⁷ Enos⁷ (the order uncertain). Allen,⁷ born 1821, married 1846, Jane Rutledge, daughter of Richard and Jane who came from England; ten children. John,⁷ born Oct. 8, 1823; mar. 1849, Elizabeth J. Miller, daughter of Zachariah who came from Virginia; four children. Mary,⁷ a school teacher, married Professor William N. Edwards who died in Troy, Miami County, ~~and~~ in 1867, and she later went to South Africa as a missionary and died there quite aged. It was she who wrote the Evangelist Dwight L. Moody of Northfield, Massachusetts, about the fatherless son of her brother Enos.⁷ Mr. Moody wrote at once for the boy to come from Ohio, which he did, and became the beloved Edgar Lincoln⁸ Kelly of Mount Hermon Boys School, one of the two "Northfield Schools". Later Mr. Kelly went to Michigan with a Mount Hermon student who was deeply interested in Sunday Schools. Mr. Kelly was the oldest son of Enos,⁷ who died in July 1869, Iowa Falls, Iowa, leaving two little sons and a six weeks old daughter, Fannie May Kelley, born May 27, 1869, Iowa Falls, Iowa. Samuel^o Kelley died in Iowa Falls in 1874.

It is solely because of the above Fannie May⁸ Kelley and her family that this record is being made. She married March 31, 1896, Bernardston, Massachusetts, Charles Albert Parker of Northfield, Massachusetts, a cousin of the compiler of this record. For their marriage and the births of their four children, see pages 183 and 184 of the 1908 "King Family of Suffield, Connecticut," by King. Mrs. Parker died very suddenly December 10, 1936 at her home in Northfield, Massachusetts; missed by all. Her next older brother died a young man, unmarried. Her mother, Sarah (Lair) (Kelley) Duncan, died in Northfield, at Mrs. Parker's home.

Seth^o Killey, or Kelley, born Oct. 10, 1794, Mendon, Mass.; died Nov. 1852, West Milton, Ohio; married ~~xxxxxxLxxxxxxLxxxxxx~~, Miami County, Mary A. Coppock, who died Aug. 1852. Their son Eli⁷ was born Nov. 4, 1839; mar. May 4, 1867, Hattie L. Bates: ~~four~~ children; Edward Bates,⁸ b. Feb. 21, 1869; Harry,⁸ b. Feb. 21, 1870, d. Jan. 15, 1874; Robert,⁸ b. July 1, 1875.

See other side of this sheet.

1850 census: Milton, in Union Township, Miami County,
Ohio. - The following on page 346. Taken October 28-
1850.

Household ... \$700.
Samuel Kelley, aged 58; occupation, Singer, from Mass.
Mahala " " 48 " Ohio
Same " " 15 " "
David " " 23 Machinist. "
Seth " " 13 "
Elios " " 9 "
Leonidas " " 4 "
John Anthony [not copied further]

Page 341 - Taken October 28-1850

John Kelley - aged 27 - Machinist - \$1000. - from Ohio
Elizabeth " " 35 " Va.
Quam " " 3 (male) " Ohio
Maris " " 1 " Va.
Sophia Miller 22

Page 303 -

Fredrick Youngt. 72 - no occupation - \$3,470. from N.C.
Mary " " 70 " "

Page 292 - Union Twp., Miami Co. - Ohio

District No. 104. - Taken Oct. 2-1850

Seth Kelly - aged 55 - Farmer - \$800. - from Mass.
Mary A. Kelly " 43 " Ohio
David " " 13 " "
Eli " " 11 " "
Sarah " " 7 " "
Mary " " 5 " "

John Wagner 20

Susan Ann Turner 22

[all above names spelled Kelley except "Seth Kelly"]

Williams Ancestry

The 1893 Austin book was designed to give the ancestry of Mr. Austin's son, and this therefore did not include the ancestry of Sarah Williams, first wife of Seth Killey and mother of all his children, five in number. This is a very excellent line in America, and the 1924 typed Williams record makes even claims of royalty for some of its English ancestry.

Sarah Williams (Daniel¹, Daniel², Samuel³, Richard⁴), born May 15, 1757, Easton, Mass.; died February 26, 1810, Mendon, Mass.; married November 23, 1789, Easton, Mass., Seth Killey of Mendon, Mass.

The Austin book gives the date of marriage as Nov. 23, 1789, and I have no doubt of the correctness of the year although in the printed Mendon vital records the year is given as 1779 instead of 1789. My impression is that the figure 8 was written in such a manner as to mislead someone into thinking it a 7. This is based upon the ages of the five children, the first of whom was born August 24, 1790, followed by the other four in 1792 - 1794 - 1796 - 1798; and with no suggestion anywhere that there were older children. And also by the fact that Seth Killey was born Sept. 10, 1762, and therefore would have been only 17 years, 2½ months old if the marriage was in Nov. 1779.

Richard Williams, first of the line in America, was one of the founders of Taunton, Massachusetts, and so prominent in its affairs as to be called the father of Taunton. He was several times its deputy to the Plymouth ~~and~~ Colony General Court - recalling that the Plymouth and the Massachusetts Bay Colonies were not united until 1692. According to the 1924 Williams records, Richard was baptized Jan. 28, 1606, near Gloucester, England, the son of William and Jane (Woodward) Williams who married in 1603. And according to this record the Williams family was connected with the line of Cromwells to which Oliver Cromwell belonged. And Richard married in Gloucester, England, Feb. 11, 1632, Frances Deighton, daughter of Dr. John and Jane (Bassett) Deighton of Gloucester, whose tomb, with inscriptions, can be seen in St. Nicholas Church, Gloucester.

It is the ancestry of Frances (Deighton) Williams' mother for which the Williams 1924 record claims descent from Edward I of England, 1239 - 1307; king from 1272, and "a ruler entitled to the highest praise;" "one of the most enlightened and sagacious monarchs of his age." 1299 Edward I married, 2nd, Margaret, daughter of Philip III of France, and their son, Thomas, of Brotherton, was created Earl of Norfolk, and married Alice, daughter of Sir Roger Halys, Knight. Margaret, daughter of Prince Thomas and Alice, was ultimately made Duchess of Norfolk, after her marriage to John, lord Segrave; and through this line finally came all the descendants of Prince Thomas. Margaret's daughter Elizabeth, heiress of Segrave, married John, lord Mowbray, and their son Thomas Mowbray succeeded as Duke of Norfolk; and ~~Thomas Mowbray~~ was created Earl Marshal "on account of his descent from Thomas de Brotherton, earl of Norfolk." Thomas married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Fitz Alan, Earl of Arundel, and their daughter Isabel Mowbray married, 2nd, James, 6th lord de Berkeley, and one of their sons was Maurice de Berkeley, 3rd Baron de Berkeley, who married Isabel Mead, daughter of Philip Mead, "an alderman of Bristol." According to Burke, this Maurice "enjoyed none of the estates. His brother's displeasure was attributed to his having married (in 1465) a person of mean blood, namely, Isabel, daughter of Philip Meade, an alderman of Bristol. This Maurice obtained, however, his share of an estate which devolved upon him in right of his mother, Isabel." He died 1506. The above is given in Burke's Peerage. And this compiler made no attempt to trace further. - According to the 1924 Williams record the further record is: Maurice's daughter Ann Berkeley mar. Sir William X. Dennis; Elizabeth Dennis mar. Sir John Berkeley; Elizabeth Berkeley mar. Henry Lygon; Isabel Lygon mar. Edward Bassett; Jane Bassett mar. Dr. John Deighton; Frances Deighton mar. 1632 Richard Williams. This compiler does not know how authoritative the claim may or may not be.

Emery's "Ministry of Taunton, Mass." states: Richard Williams "may be considered the Father of Taunton." Bayles, a descendant, states in Historical Memoirs of Richard Williams: "When blind and deaf from age he was accustomed to attend public worship, saying that although he could neither see nor hear yet it was consoling to his feelings to know that he was present while the people of God were at worship."

²
Samuel Williams (Richard), born about 1637-8, Taunton, Mass.; died there August 1697; married (1) Mary Gilbert, mother of all his children; (2) after her father's will of Aug. 26, 1691, the then twice widowed Anna (Rogers) (Tisdale) Terry, supposed a granddaughter of the Mayflower Thomas¹ Rogers. Samuel² was also a deputy to the Plymouth General Court. - Mary³ Gilbert was the daughter of Thomas² and Jane² (Rossiter) Gilbert of Taunton; and granddaughter of "Mr. John Gilbert, a grave, honest gentleman" who was one of Taunton's two first deputies to General Court.. His will was made in 1654, in which he names his wife Winifred; and his sons, etc. There is much more in print regarding this Gilbert family, an excellent one. Hugh¹ Rossiter was Mary³ Gilbert's maternal grandfather. Thomas¹ Gilbert also a deputy.

~~Daniel¹ Williams (Samuel² Richard)~~
Daniel³ Williams (Samuel² Richard) born 1681-2; d. Sept. 7, 1735 in 54th year, Taunton; mar. Feb. 1, 1710-11, Mercy³ Deane, daughter of Thomas² and Katherine (Stevens) Deane; granddaughter of John¹ Deane of Taunton, Mass., "among the first settlers entitled to special honor and notice." "He was a recognized leader in church and in all town affairs. His birth place is known - South Chard, a settlement in Somersetshire, England, delightfully located in Taunton Dean, a few miles south of Taunton. He was the son of William¹, who was the son of Walter¹ Deane, of South Chard." He died 1660, Taunton, Mass.; wife named Alice.

Daniel¹ Williams (Daniel³ Samuel² Richard) born June 25, 1718, Taunton; died Oct. 9, 1782, Easton, Mass.; mar. Oct. 8, 1740, Rebecca³ Hunt, born Apr. 23, 1718-9; died June 2, 1776, daughter of Rev. Samuel¹ and Hannah (Pope) Hunt of Dartmouth, Mass. Rev. Samuel¹ Hunt was the son of Col. Ephraim³ Hunt, Esq, a counsellor, by his wife Joanna³ Alcock, daughter of Dr. John² and Sarah² (Palsgrave) Alcock of Roxbury and Boston; and granddaughter of George¹ Alcock whose wife was the sister of Rev. Thomas Hooker of Hartford, Conn. Sarah² Palsgrave was daughter of Richard¹ Palsgrave of Charlestown. This is only the briefest reference to these families. Dr.² John Alcock was a Harvard man. Col. Ephraim³ Hunt was the son of Ephraim² and Anna (Richards) Hunt; granddaughter of Capt. Seth² Pope of Dartmouth by his first wife, Deborah² Perry, dau. of Ezra¹ and Elizabeth (Burge) Perry of Sandwich, Mass. Capt. Seth² the son of Thomas¹ and Sarah (Jenney) Pope: Thomas¹ of Plymouth and Sarah the dau. of John¹ and Sarah (Garey) Jenney of Plymouth. Capt. Seth² Pope "became one of the most wealthy and influential citizens of the old colony" of Plymouth. He left an estate of 15,000 pounds. Joanna³ (Alcock) Hunt's ancestry is proved by the inscription on her tomb.

Children of Daniel¹ and Rebecca³ (Hunt) Williams, all born Easton, Mass., were: Daniel² 1741 - 1742; Daniel² 1743 - 1782, m. Rhoda Lathrop, lived Easton, Mass.; Joanna² 1745 - 1772, m. Dr. Edward Dean; Ephraim² 1747 - 1839, m. 1st, Mercy Daniels, and from 1771 lived in Ashfield, Mass; Mercy² 1750 - 1837, m. Lyman Wheelock at Ashfield; Rebecca² 1752 - 1776 unmar.; Apollos² 1755 - 1756; Sarah² May 15, 1757 - Feb. 26, 1810, m. Seth⁵ Killey of Mendon, Mass.; William² 1760 - 1780; Ezra² 1765 - 1844, of Ashfield and a hotel proprietor there for 25 years.

³
When Seth Killey married in 1726 he signed his name as Seth Killey, and Seth⁴ Killey his son, and Seth⁵ Killey his grandson, used the same signature. By 1880 Samuel's⁶ sons Allen⁷ and John⁷ used the spelling Kelley.

Copy of a letter from the town clerk of Yarmouth, Massachusetts:

TOWN OF YARMOUTH
Office of the Town Clerk

Yarmouthport, Mass.
January 16, 1937

Miss Alice L. Priest
16 Brewster Terrace
Brookline, Mass.

Dear Miss Priest:-

Your letter of January 15, 1937 received. In Book No. 3, Page 98, of the Yarmouth Records appears the following:

"Jeremiah okiley ye son of Seth & mehitabel okiley he was born ye 4th of october in ye year of our Lord 1727
Elisha okiley he was born on ye 26th of may in ye year 1729
Seth okiley he was born on the 26th day of november 1730
Richard okilley was born on ye (?) september ye year 1732
Abigail okilley she was born July fifth Day in ye year 1734
Wing okeley He was born July ye 26 1736
mehetabel okeley she was born on may ye 17 1738
Elezebeth okeley she was born January ye 14 1739
David keley He was born may ye 28 1743
Elisha okeley He was born october ye 15 1744
Sarah O Kelley was born April 9, 1749"

Book No. 3, Page 129

"thankful okiley the daughter of Amos & abigail okiley she was born on ye 30th day of June in ye year 1722
Amos okiley he was born on the 12th day of november inye year 1723
(?) okiley she was born on ye 11th day of november in ye year 1727
Deliverance okilley she was born on ye 10th day of november 1730
(?) he was born on ye 8th day of february 1732/3
Seth okeley he was born ye 14th of January in ye year 1739"

The hand writing and spelling in the old Records is very difficult to read and the above is as near as I can make it out.

Very truly yours
(Signed) Allen H. Knowles
Town Clerk

Obituary in the January 13, 1937 Boston, Mass., Herald:

"David Dudley Kelley Dead in Athens, Ga.

Former Yarmouth Selectman, 66, Was Wintering in South
SOUTH YARMOUTH, Jan. 12 - David Dudley Kelley, 66, former Yarmouth selectman and Barnstable county commissioner, died last night in Athens, Ga., where he had been spending the winter, it was learned here today. He had been in ill health for several months.

A direct descendant of the first settlers of Yarmouth, he was born in South Yarmouth, the son of Seth and Harriet (Baker) Kelley. An artist and designer, in his youth he was engaged in designing glassware for the old Sandwich Glass Company.

Many of his paintings created in his South Yarmouth studio won awards in exhibitions held at various New England art centers. Until his retirement over a year ago he conducted a jewelry business here.

Long active in civic and political affairs on Cape Cod, he had served as a commissioner of Barnstable county, member of the boards of selectmen, assessors and public welfare of Yarmouth and had been a member of the Yarmouth school committee. He was a member of the Owl Club of South Yarmouth, the Bass River Club

and the Hyannis lodge of Odd Fellows. He was one of the last surviving members of the old Quaker Church here.

He leaves his widow, the former Louise A. Chase of West Yarmouth and a brother, Ralph D. Kelley of Somerville."

A very much more complete record than this is intended to be, could very readily be compiled of this Yarmouth family that probably today mainly spells its name as did Mr. David Dudley Kelley, above. A few stray items are as follows:

A 1712 Division of Yarmouth Common Lands included the names Benjamin O'Kelley and Jeremiah Kelley. A 1739 Proprietors' division on Crocket Neck, the name Amos O'Killey. In the 1745 Louisburg expedition was Jonathan O'Killey of Yarmouth or close vicinity. Richard Kelley died Nov. 5, 1856, aged 87, son of Jeremiah and Zilpha. ~~1824~~ In 1824 in Dennis, died David Kelley, whose sons were: Jon, b. 1779; David, b. 1782; Samuel, b. 1785; Bangs, b. 1792 and died 1857. Oct. 23, 1781, Esther Killey, wife of Shubal Killey, joined the Yarmouth Congregational Church. 1756 Harwich town records included: "Yarm. 16 day, 3 mo., 1756. We, Jno. Kelly and Seth Kelly, of Yarm., do certify that Matthew Gage doth visit our meetings and own our principles. We do earnestly desire that the assessors would omit him in the Priest's rate."

Marriages:- Hannah Kille, dau. John and Hannah of Yarmouth, mar. Edmond Shearman, son of David and Abigel of Dartmouth, March 4, 1744-5 Yarmouth. - Elisha Killey (not sure of spelling), son of Seth, deceased, and Mehitable, deceased, of Yarmouth, mar. Lydia Braley, dau. Roger and Margret, March 9, 1767, Dartmouth. - Anna Kelley, dau. Hattel and Hannah of Yarmouth, mar. David Braley, son of Roger and Margret, Aug. 8, 1768, Yarmouth. - Joseph Kelly of Bellingham mar. intent Margaret Braley, Jan. 26, 1782. - Amos Killey, son of Jeremiah, deceased, (late of Wareham, Plymouth County) and Rebecca mar. Lydia Braley, dau. of Russell and Alice, May 25, 1797, New Bedford. - Mehitable Wing, dau. of Elisha, mar. Seth Killie, son of Jeremiah of Yarmouth, Barnstable County, Nov. 23, 1726, Rochester.

June 19, 1758, Joseph Killey of Smithfield, County of Providence, Rhode Island, was deeded a one-fourth interest in a "Grist Mill So Called" in Mendon, Massachusetts.

September 25, 1759, Benjamin Cargill of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts Bay Province, Clothier, with free consent of his wife Mary, for 300 pounds Lawfull Money paid by Seth Killey of Yarmouth in the County of Barnstable in the Province aforesaid Blacksmith deeded Two Tracts or parcels of Lands in said Mendon, a total of about 115 acres. Boundaries began at a heap of stones "by Rehoboth Road So Called or my home farm", and easterly on Mill River. Witnesses: Jeremiah Killey, Joseph Killey. Recorded Sept. 22, 1762, vol. 47, page 175, Worcester.

Nov. 3, 1760 Joseph Daniels of Mendon, yeoman, wife Margaret, deeds to Seth Killey of Mendon, "Clothier, Alias Blacksmith," for 59 pounds 19 shillings, land in Mendon. Boundaries begin at a bunch of small maples on west side Mill River, "down the stream from said Seth Killeys house." Recorded May 9, 1793, vol. 119, page 14.

April 4, 1799 Will of Seth Killey of Mendon: good estate; "unto my Beloved wife Molley Killey," $\frac{1}{2}$ improved lands except one pasture, $\frac{3}{4}$ furniture, horse, "carraige," etc. To sons Seth, Willis, Asa, John, Daniel, David, Mark; seven children of (deceased) daughter Mehitable Allen; daughters Lettice Farnum and Mary Killey. "Molley" was the way her name was spelled also in her birth record; and the birth record of her namesake granddaughter (Seth); so that it seems that Austin's book would better have stated that Seth^h Killey married Molly (or Molley) Daniels, instead of the Mary into which Austin transforms it.

These records include six generations, beginning with Seth Kelly, 1700 - 1758, called "One of three brothers from Ireland," born 1700, died Aug. 13, 1758; married Mehitable, who died Feb. 3, 1767; and the births of their eleven children as given in the Austin 1893 book except that Mr. Kelly's record properly follows the Yarmouth town record as to months of birth while Austin has translated what he considered Old Style dating into two months later New Style dating with years beginning Jan. 1st instead of March 25. But the Yarmouth town records give the name of the months, not the number in the year. - Then follows the record of the thirteen children of Seth and "Mollie" (Daniels); and next the five of Seth and Sarah (Williams) with these additions:

Moses, b. Aug. 24, 1790; died July 14, 1882; Samuel, b. Jan. 8, 1792 (children given later here); Eli, born April 9, 1796; "died Aug. 23, 1854 of cholera at Milton, Ohio, while on a visit from his home in Massachusetts;" Sarah (Mendon record has Molley), b. April 17, 1798; died Feb. 25, 1825.

The eight children of Samuel⁶ Kelly are: Allen (Milton, Ohio); John (Troy, Ohio); Daniel (died of cholera Aug. 25, 1854); Mary Kelly Edwards (died in South Africa); Jane Kelly Tenney (lived at Troy, Ohio); Seth (died in Kansas); Enos (born Aug. 9, 1840, West Milton, Ohio; died July 15, 1869, Iowa Falls, Iowa; mar. Sarah Lair May 26, 1863 at West Milton, Ohio); Leonidas. - The order as given is that of birth.

The children of Enos⁷ and Sarah (Lair) Kelly were: Edgar Lincoln, born Sept. 27, 1865, Iowa Falls, Iowa; William H., b. Aug. 23, 1867, Iowa Falls, Iowa; died March 17, 1890, Gill, Massachusetts; Fannie May, born May 27, 1869, Iowa Falls, Iowa; died December 10, 1936, Northfield, Massachusetts. - Mr. Edgar Lincoln Kelly has a son William,⁹ who has a daughter, Shirley.¹⁰ Mr. Kelly's other son died young.

Seth⁶ Kelly, born Oct. 5, 1794 (Oct. 10 in Mendon, Mass., records); died Sept. 19, 1852, West Milton, Ohio. His four children were: David, b. Oct. 20, 1837; died Dec. 18, 1889 (had four children); Eli, b. Nov. 4, 1839; Sarah Kelly Jay, b. Jan. 19, 1844; Maryann, b. Feb. 20, 1842. - Children of David,⁷ 1837 - 1889, were: William Powers, b. Dec. 30, 1865; Kettie Maude, b. Dec. 1, 1869; Anna Louise, b. July 8, 1874; Benjamin Seth, b. Feb. 28, 1876.

Eli⁶ Kelly, 1796 - 1854, had four children: Charles (living at North Wear, New Hampshire); Sarah (of New England); Mary R. (of New England); Roland (North Wear, New Hampshire).

The above records from Mr. Edgar L. Kelly were received, and copied here, on February 11, 1937; some days after the previous pages were typed.

February 22, 1937

As stated on page 2, Sarah (Lair) (Kelley) Duncan, died at the home of her only daughter, Mrs. Parker, in Northfield, Massachusetts. The record of her death is in volume 67, page 302, Vital Statistics Department, State House, Boston, Mass. That record states that Sarah (Lair) Duncan died August 11, 1917, Northfield, and on August 14 was buried at Gill Centre, Mass., (where her second son was buried). That she was born June 6, 1846, Gordon, Ohio; that her father was David Lair, born New Jersey, and her mother's maiden name was Sarah Gordon, also born in New Jersey.

Gordon, Ohio, is in Darke County, adjoining Miami County on the east, and the Ohio western boundary line on the west.

In 1924 was published a "History of St. Peter's (Episcopal) Church In Perth Amboy, New Jersey," by Rev. W. Northey Jones, M. A., who was the rector. On page 274 began the record of the Thomas Gordon Family, which comprised several pages. The line came down from Thomas¹ Gordon, 1653 - 1722; Thomas², 1696 - 1784; Franklin³, 17?? - 1793; Philip⁴, 1788 - 1857; Sarah⁵, born Nov. 19, 1813, who married David Lair and they lived and died in Gordon, Ohio, and had a son Henry who lived in West Milton, Ohio, and a son Joseph. Their daughter Sarah is not named, but the death record makes it seem sure that she was their daughter. By 1776 there was a family named Lair in New Jersey; but it seems possible to question whether it may not have been a corruption of the name Laird; perhaps not, however.

A Kelley record book now owned by Mr. Ralph Dudley Kelley of Somerville, Mass., brother of the lato Mr. David Dudley Kelley of Yarmouth, Mass., which book was kindly shown me a week ago, includes a printed letter from Mr. Charles C. Paine. This letter was on the Ancestry of the Cape Cod Kelleys, was written Dec. 20, 1932 and printed in the Yarmouth Register. In it Mr. Paine, a descendant of David O'Killia, states:

"As Counsel for the Town of Barnstable and for the Town of Yarmouth, in some recent litigation necessitating a research of the earlier records of Yarmouth, Barnstable and Plymouth, I have obtained considerable data as to David O'Killea who apparently was the progenitor of the numerous Kelley families of Yarmouth, Dennis and Harwich.

"The name originally was O'Killea but in the records we notice the change to O'Killey, later Killey and about 100 years ago to Kelley, which is the usual present day spelling of the name.

"David O'Killea was an Irishman, servant to Edward Sturgis, who came to Charlestown in 1634, later to Sandwich and then to Yarmouth, where he was a very prominent man in the latter town. His servant David O'Killea was first with him in Sandwich and later became a resident of Yarmouth and his name appears on the earlier records as a taxpayer, etc.

"David O'Killea's wife was Jane Powell, servant of William Swift of Sandwich, and by her he had David, Jeremiah, John and Benjamin. The son Jeremiah mentioned as No. 2 in Mr. Wing's letter, married Sarah Chase, daughter of John Chase and Elizabeth Baker, and he was born in 1670 and died in 1727." etc.

The Mr. Wing letter referred to was a printed one from Mr. Daniel Wing, dated Dec. 10, 1932, in which he says: "There is a family tradition that the progenitor was a boy passenger on board some vessel, and was put ashore on Cape Cod by a heartless Captain."

Sarah⁴ Chase (John³, William², Constable William¹ of Yarmouth) appears to have been the line of Jeremiah² O'Killia's wife. The first Constable William¹ Chase born in England about 1595 and died in Yarmouth 1659; William² born England about 1622, died Yarmouth 1685; John's³ wife was the daughter of Francis¹ and Isabel (Twining) Baker.

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Copy of a Letter written by Mr. Edgar Lincoln Kelly of 215 East Ash Street, Three Oaks, Michigan, on February 21, 1937, in response to an inquiry as to the parents of his mother, Sarah Lair, who married (1) May 26, 1863, at West Milton, Ohio, Enos⁷ ~~Kelley~~ Kelley; and married (2) after 1869, a Mr. Duncan. Mr. Edgar Lincoln Kelly wrote, to Miss Alice L. Priest:

"Your letter received about my Mother's people and will say that David and Sarah Lair were my Mother's parents and that Henry and Joe Lair were her brothers. Henry was a Civil War veteran and had a large family; but Joe Lair was not a war veteran and he has one daughter alive and I think they buried an infant son. There was quite a family of David and Sarah Lair's children but I do not know them in rotation. I have sent down into Ohio to my cousin to see if she can get the family names, and when she gets them will send them to you."

The above may be counted as absolutely trustworthy information as to the parents and brothers of the above Sarah Lair, daughter of David and Sarah (Gordon) Lair of Gordon, Darke County, Ohio; and the wife of Enos⁷ Kelley and later the wife of a Mr. Duncan. It serves as an addition to the Thomas Gordon Family record in the 1924 book published by St. ~~Rochester~~ Peter's (Episcopal) Church of Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

March 13, 1937

March 8, 1937 Mr. Edgar Lincoln Kelly (son of Enos⁷ and Sarah (Lair) Kelly), of 215 East Ash Street, Three Oaks, Michigan, wrote in part as follows:

"Enclosed please find some things that may interest you about my Mother's family. Also a letter from a distant relative whom I knew about who is interested in the Kelly family history, and to whom I sent the papers you sent me ... I had my cousins look up the things (about the Lair family) and copy them for me. It is what my Grandfather wrote up about the family from memory. There was so much of it I did not copy it, and if when you get through with it you will return I will be thankful."

Two sheets of paper which Mr. Edgar Lincoln Kelly enclosed were on the letter-head paper of Mrs. J. W. Keck, 327 Willowood Drive, Dayton, Ohio, and were as follows:

Parents Births

David Lair was born August 28, 1809

Sarah Gordon Lair was born November 19, 1813

Births of Children

Amy Lair was born March 13, 1833

William B. Lair was born April 10, 1836

Philip G. Lair " " September 22, 1838

Elizabeth Lair " " October 10, 1840

Henry M. Lair " " April 13, 1844

Sarah Lair " " June 6, 1846

Joseph Lair " " December 25, 1848

W. S. Lair " " May 15, 1852

William Matchet Lair " " August 24, 1854

Elvira Lair " " December 6, 1855

Laura Jane Lair " " January 17, 1857

Georganna Lair " " May 29, 1859

Deaths

Philip G. Lair August 12, 1859

William B. Lair August 18, 1852

William M. Lair September 26, 1854

Georganna Lair August 30, 1859

David Lair and Sarah Gordon were married October 2nd 1831

John Ullery and Amy Lair " " February 25, 1851

Daniel Coffman and Elizabeth A. Lair " " August 25, 1859

Enos Kelly and Sarah Lair were married

This is as far as he went with the marriages.

Three sheets of typed records which Mr. Edgar Lincoln Kelly enclosed were what were copied for Mr. Kelly by his cousins, and were "what my Grandfather wrote up about the family from memory". Therefore, were what was written from memory by Mr. David Lair, born August 28, 1809, New Jersey; died March 1906, West Milton, Miami County, Ohio. And as the paper shows, he wrote it January 7, 1887.

The three sheets of typed records are as follows:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF WILLIAM LAIR, SR., WRITTEN
FROM MEMORY BY THE LAST SURVIVING MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY

William Lair, Sr., was born in 1750 near the city of Lyons in France. His father died soon after his birth and was buried in his native country. In 1752 his mother was forced to leave France on account of the great persecutions of the Protestants by the Romish church and came to America in order that she might worship God according to the precepts of the gospel.

She brought with her four children: William, the youngest, two years old, two daughters whose names have been forgotten as they died many years before the writer's birth, and the eldest, a son named Garret. After landing in New York, they went to New Jersey where they finally settled in what is now Delaware Township, Hunderton County.

When he was five years old, William, the youngest son, went to live with a German named Casper Bear with whom he remained until he was twenty-one years old as his mother died when he was but seven years old. At the age of twenty-one William learned the carpenter's trade which he followed until he was twenty-three, when he married Elizabeth Boss, daughter of Godfrey and Elizabeth Boss who were also driven from France on account of their Protestant principles. In 1776 William joined the Revolutionary army and battled for his country's rights. How long he remained in the army the writer has at this distant date forgotten.

Garret was the father of several children and died about 1800. One of the sisters married a man named Compton and their descendants live in Sussex County, New Jersey. The other sister married an Englishman by the name of Myers, a rampant Tory of the Revolution. At the close of the War New Jersey became too warm for him and he emigrated to Pennsylvania where all traces of them were lost.

At the close of the War, William became a farmer which means of earning a livelihood he followed the remainder of his life.

William was the father of eleven children, nine by his first wife and two by his second wife. Two died in infancy; the rest are as follows:

Mary, the eldest, was born in 1776 and died in 1836 without children.

John was born in 1779, was married to Sarah Dils by whom he had three children, one son and two daughters, and died in 1854.

William, Jr., was born in 1782 and was married to Charlotte Heat by whom he had one daughter. His wife then died and he married Elizabeth Rittenhouse by whom he had eleven children, six sons and five daughters. He died in 1864.

Ann was born in 1784, was married to Ambrose Bonham by whom she had seven children, five sons and two daughters; and died in the town of Gordon, Darke County, Ohio, in 1874.

Garret was born in 1790, was married to Hester Rittenhouse by whom he had nine children, six sons and three daughters, and died in 1884.

Rebecca was born in 1795, was married to Pearson Robeson by whom she had nine children, seven sons and two daughters, and died in 1834.

Joseph was born on Christmas day 1798, was married to Elizabeth Wirt by whom he had four children, three sons and one daughter.

In 1799 Elizabeth, his first wife, (William Lair, Sr.'s first wife) died and in 1802 he was married to Ann Boss, sister to his first wife by whom he had two children, one son and one daughter.

Sarah Lair was born in 1802, was married to Richard Rittenhouse and died in August, 1921 (doubtless 1821), childless, and in two weeks and one day the writer's mother died.

David Lair, the last remaining one of the family, was born August 28, 1809. (Died March, 1906, at West Milton, aged 96 years, 6 months)

In June, 1828, William, Sr. died.

On October 2, 1831, David Lair was married to Sarah Gordon. To them were born twelve children, six sons and six daughters, as follows:

Any Lair was born March 19, 1833; William B. Lair was born April 10, 1836 and died August 13, 1852, aged sixteen years, four months and ten days; Philip G. Lair was born September 22, 1838 and died August 12, 1839; Elizabeth Ann Lair was born October 10, 1840; Henry M. Lair was born April 13, 1844, our eldest son now living; Sarah Lair was born June 6, 1846; Joseph Lair was born December 25, 1848, being our first and last Christmas gift of this kind; Winfield S. Lair was born May 15, 1852; William M. Lair was born August 24, 1854 and died September 26, aged one month and two days; Elvira Lair was born December 6, 1855; Laura Jane Lair was born January 17, 1857; Georgianna Lair was born May 29, 1859 and died August 31, 1859, aged three months and two days. Since that time they have scattered to various localities.

In the spring of 1839 David Lair with his family emigrated to Ohio. As there were no railroad facilities in those days they made the trip in wagons. They were 23½ days on the road, landing at Alexanderville on June 13th where they remained about two months. On August 16 they removed to Irwin Township, Darke County and settled on the land the town of Gordon now stands upon on the Dayton and Union Railroad.

The county at that time was almost a wilderness and it took almost Herculean labor to clear it up by log rolling and cabin raisings which were the important events of the day. Dayton was our nearest market town, being twenty miles distant, with nothing but mud and corduroy roads to travel on and nearly half the year it was impossible to travel at all.

In the fall of 1861 the eldest living son, Henry M. Lair, enlisted in the 48th Ohio Infantry; was wounded at the battle of Pittsburgh Landing and was discharged. After his recovery he enlisted in the 8th Ohio Cavalry where he remained until the close of the War. He was taken prisoner at Beverly, West Virginia, and for a time experienced the horrors and privations of Libby prison.

From heavy losses the aged couple became financially reduced and through ill health of his wife they abandoned housekeeping for something over two years when she, being somewhat restored, they bought property in West Milton and again commenced housekeeping on January 8, 1886, where they now reside at this writing, January 7, 1887.

The above very valuable family record is strongly supported by some printed New Jersey records. As follows, for some items:

New Jersey Archives, 1st series, volume XXII, includes some "Marriage Records, 1665 - 1800." Under Marriage Licenses are, for the females, "Sarah Boss, Hunterdon, and William Lair, Hunterdon, 1776 January 31;" for the ~~f~~emales, "William Lair, Hunterdon, and Sarah Ross, Hunterdon, 1776 January 31." Clearly, both items apply to the same marriage; and Mr. David Lair's 1887 record makes it certain that Boss was the correct name, not Ross; taking into account also one or two other points. Also it is practically sure that he erred in the first name of William Lair's first wife; for this was doubtless the William Lair who was David Lair's father. Notice that David states that the two wives of William were sisters; that among the children by the first wife there was no Sarah, but that the first child of the second wife was named Sarah. It was quite a usual thing in earlier times to name the first daughter of a second wife for the deceased first wife if the latter had left no living daughter named for her. David Lair stated that the first child of William Lair was born in 1776; and the above marriage license was dated January 31, 1776. He stated that the two wives of this William Lair were the daughters of Godfrey and Elizabeth Boss. In 1913 was published an Index of Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Wills prior to 1901, as found in the office of the Secretary of State. This includes the 1805 Will and 1805 Invoice of Godfrey Boss (2132 J). (Also the 1791 Will of John Boss; the 1758 Will of Joseph Boss, Sr.; the 1805 Will and Invoice of another Joseph Boss, Sr.)

Mr. David Lair stated that his father William Lair, Sr., died June 1828. The above Index gives the 1829 Invoice of William Lair, Sr. (3722J); the 1857 Invoice of another William Lair, Sr.; the 1867 Invoice of Garret Lair; and the names of sixteen other Lairs.

Mr. David Lair states that his brother Garret Lair was born in 1790 and married Hester Rittenhouse. A publication giving Hunterdon County, New Jersey, marriages from 1795 to perhaps as late as 1860 includes:

Garret Lair and Hester Rittenhouse, married 1812 October 10. Also, among others:
Andrew Lair and Levina Boss, 1810 March

Charity Lair and William Souden, 1822 November 20

Garret Lair and Saley Little, 1808 November 24

Garret Lair and Mrs. Ann Eliza Fritts, 1854 December 16

Jane Lair and John Webster, 1833 January 20

John Lair and Lucinda Rittenhouse, 1855 October 31

Sarah Ann Lair and Jacob Crouse, 1837 September 30 And among the Gordons gives:

Philip Gordon and Elizabeth Hardin, 1803 December 17 (The parents of David Lair's wife)

Amanda Gordon and Nelson McClane (She the sister of Sarah Gordon Lair)

Franklin Gordon and Gitty Hyde, 1829 Dec. 17

Franklin Gordon and Mary Dalrymple, 1833 June 8

(Following Gordon's married in years given after each name: Jacob, 1837; James, 1830; John, 1797 and 1828; Lucinda, 1839; Mary, 1797; etc.)

(Also many other Boss marriages.)

Mr. David Lair stated that the Lairs lived in Delaware township, "Hunderton" County, New Jersey. There is an 1881 History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey, by Snell. It includes some account of Delaware Township, and states that its first town meeting was held April 9, 1838, at which meeting among the selected "Overseers of Roads" were Joseph Lair and John Lair. On page 377 is an account of Schools. The Locktown District (91) was formed and the school-house built in 1804. The first trustees were William Lair, Capt. John Heath, and Richard Heath. The first teacher was William Heath. "The district lies in the northwest corner of the township." Page 379: Christian Church, Locktown. On Sunday, October 16, 1829 the First Christian Church began an organization, with part of the membership living in the townships of Amwell and Kingwood, including a distance of from eight to fourteen miles. A plot of ground was selected, apparently not later than April 21, 1832. As stated, "A plot of ground was selected, and the owner, Joseph Lair, agreed to deed three-quarters of an acre in the southwest corner of his farm for that purpose." It was agreed to. Three ~~xxxxxx~~ trustees were elected, one for one year, Philip Gordon for two years, and Elisha Rittenhouse for three years. Building seems to have been completed for opening ceremonies Oct. 13 and 14, 1832. Among the trustees for the period 1830 - 1840 were Philip Gordon, Esq., Jonathan Harden, David Lair; and their names do not appear after 1840.

Doubtless Philip Gordon, Esq. and David Lair were the ones who moved to Darke County, Ohio, in 1839 (though it is not impossible that the trustee David Lair may have been a cousin of the David Lair who was son-in-law of Philip Gordon, since we do not know the names of the children of the older Garret Lair, nor exactly where they lived.) It seems probable that the church trustee named Elisha Rittenhouse may have been related to the Hester Rittenhouse who married David's brother Garret. And that the trustee Jonathan Harden may have been the father or near relative of Elizabeth Harden, or Hardin, wife of Philip Gordon.

Another surmise is that the first child of William and Sarah (Boss) Lair may have been named for William's early deceased mother; and the next child, a son, for his father. Certainly they were not named for Sarah's parents.

